



Approved April 8, 2013

**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE  
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**SUMMARIZED MINUTES**

**5:00 p.m. Monday, March 11, 2013  
Human Resources Pinnacle Conference Room  
7575 E. Main Street  
Scottsdale, Arizona**

**Present:** Jeff Jameson, Chair  
Bob Fox, Vice Chair  
James Campbell, Commissioner  
Susan Galpin, Commissioner  
Lauren Griswold, Commissioner  
Edward Lopez, Commissioner  
Joel Martin, Commissioner

**Staff:** Velicia McMillan Humes  
Mark Wilson  
Madeline Clemann

**Guests:** Ben Limmer  
Lisa Procknow  
Andrew Song  
Ashley Song  
Cindi Kishiyama-Harbottle

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Jameson called the meeting to order at approximately 5:09 p.m. A roll call confirmed members present as noted above.

**1 REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

APPROVED 7-0: Commissioner Campbell moved to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2013 meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Galpin.



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## **2 VALLEY METRO OUTREACH PRESENTATION ON SERVICE CHANGE AND FARE EQUITY POLICY**

Ben Limmer presented Valley Metro's proposed major service changes and Fare Equity Policy set for implementation on April 1. The policies are designed to comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Valley Metro conducts comprehensive ridership surveys every three years. The data helps ensure that low income and/or minority populations are not unfairly impacted by major changes to transit service or fare adjustments.

In response to Mr. Limmer's request for feedback, the Commission agreed that Title VI requirements should be triggered whenever transit levels of service adjustments exceed 25%, or fare increases exceed 5%.

## **3 CIVIL DIALOGUE SERIES 2012-2013**

Commissioner Campbell introduced two speakers for the May 8 Coming to America: *Understanding the Refugee Experience* civil dialogue event. Joanne Morales of the Catholic Charities Refugee Program said refugees are individuals forced to flee their country of origin due to a well-founded fear of persecution based on race, religion, nationality, membership in a social group, or political opinion. Service organizations work to help refugees become economically self-sufficient as soon as possible after arrival.

Megan O'Connor of the Welcome to America Project (WTAP) said it is a community-based organization founded in Scottsdale in 2001. The WTAP works with partner institutions to distribute donated items to refugee families and to help them find jobs. The biggest challenge is facing the growing need with limited resources.

Ms. Morales explained that refugees and immigrants face extremely difficult situations, but immigrants can return to their home countries without fear of persecution, whereas refugees cannot. The Commission discussed the obstacles refugees face, and the need to educate residents and public safety officials on their plight.

## **4 REVIEW GLBT PROTECTION ORDINANCE (Gay Bias Ordinance)**

Chair Jameson noted that the City of Phoenix recently passed a sweeping anti-discrimination GLBT ordinance. Dr. McMillan Humes said, "City of Scottsdale currently extends City employee benefits to domestic partnerships." The HRC discussed implementing a broader ordinance in Scottsdale that would ban discrimination against the GLBT community, noting that over 160 cities in the U.S. have already done so.

APPROVED 7-0: Commissioner Martin moved to have the HRC do its due diligence in crafting a City Council recommendation that Scottsdale adopt an ordinance protecting gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender residents from discrimination. Seconded by Chair Jameson.

Commissioner Fox volunteered to research best practices from five leading cities in preparation for an action item during the April meeting.



## **5 GUN VIOLENCE AND DIVERSITY**

APPROVED 7-0: Commissioner Griswold moved to table this item until the April meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Lopez.

## **6 MEETING WITH MR. AND MRS. SONG**

Andrew and Ashley Song shared their perspectives on raising a family in Scottsdale as Korean-Americans. While Arizona's Asian population has grown over the past ten years, public representation remains low. Ms. Song proposed that Scottsdale host a festival to familiarize residents with Asian culture and encourage understanding between groups.

Cindi Kishiyama-Harbottle of the Japanese-American Citizens League suggested that the HRC could help build awareness by dedicating one Civil Dialogue Series event to the Asian-American experience in Scottsdale. Unlike other Valley festivals that focus on specific Asian cultures, Scottsdale's festival would be Pan Asian in nature to encourage broad participation. The Commission discussed the extent to which the City could support the festival.

APPROVED 7-0: Chair Jameson moved to form a working group to plan the 2013/14 Civil Dialogue series. Seconded by Commissioner Martin.

Commissioners Campbell and Griswold volunteered to participate in the working group.

APPROVED 7-0: Chair Jameson moved to develop an event on the Asian-American experience in Scottsdale for inclusion in the 2013/14 Civil Dialogue Series. Seconded by Commissioner Lopez.

## **7 CHAIRMAN REPORTS**

Chair Jameson and Commissioner Galpin discussed attending the 1 in Ten Breakfast. The Arizona We Want event at Scottsdale Community College is scheduled for March 27.

## **8 COMMISSIONER ITEMS**

Commissioner Lopez stated that youth awareness of refugee issues is growing. Commissioner Campbell said the Channel 11 interview related to **Coming to America: Understanding the Refugee Experience** will be recorded on March 28. Dr. McMillan Humes noted that City employees are allowed to register for the refugee presentation as a diversity class.

Commissioner Martin discussed attending the ASU Center for the Study of Race and Democracy event presented by Dr. Matthew Whitaker. The Positively Powerful Woman Awards will be held on June 21. Commissioner Fox discussed a news story about a Michigan nurse who sued her hospital for honoring a patient's discriminatory request.



**9 OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC (A.R.S. § 38-431.02)**

Ms. Kishiyama-Harbottle said she is proud that the HRC is working to move Scottsdale in the right direction.

**10 STAFF LIAISON ITEMS**

Dr. McMillan Humes distributed copies of the Annual Report.

**11 ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:34 p.m.

***Recorded and Transcribed by AVTronics Inc., d/b/a AVTranz Transcription and Reporting Services***

Respectfully submitted,  
Mark Wilson, Diversity Analyst

Reviewed by,  
Jeff Jameson, Chair SHRC



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